

In The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. Canceled.
2. Canceled.
3. Canceled.
4. Canceled.
5. Canceled.
6. Canceled.
7. Canceled.
8. Canceled.
9. Canceled.
10. Canceled.
11. Canceled.
12. Canceled.
13. Canceled.

14. (Original) A method of filtering liquid supplied to a dispensing orifice comprising the steps of:

directing the liquid from a liquid supply to a passageway communicating with a liquid inlet and a liquid outlet, the liquid outlet upstream of the dispensing orifice; and

applying ultrasonic energy to the liquid upstream of the liquid outlet so as to filter the liquid.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

restricting a flow of the liquid ~~at an orifice located in~~ a region of the passageway; and

applying the ultrasonic energy to the liquid in the region ~~at the orifice~~.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

applying the ultrasonic energy in a frequency between substantially 15kHz and 500kHz.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

filtering the liquid using a mesh filter.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the mesh filter is located downstream of a location at which the ultrasonic energy is applied.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein applying ultrasonic energy further includes the step of:

reducing contaminants located within the mesh filter.

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the liquid is a hot melt adhesive.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the liquid is an ink.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the liquid is a paint.

23. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the filtering of the liquid at least reduces the size of particulates in the liquid.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of entrapping the particulates in a filter.

25. (New) The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of entrapping particulates within a filter.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the ultrasonic energy is applied to at least reduce the size of the particulates entrapped within the filter.